

RURAL DISTRICT of BUCKINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and

SURVEYOR

for the Year

1958

List of Parishes in the Council's Area.

Addington	Marsh Gibbon
Adstock	Middle Claydon
Akeley	Padbury
Barton Hartshorne	Poundon
Beachampton	Preston Bissett
Biddlesden	Radclive-cum-Chackmore
Charndon	Shalstone
Chetwode	Steeple Claydon
Edgcott	Stowe
Foxcote	Thornborough
Hillesden	Thornton
Leckhampstead	Tingewick
Lillingstone Dayrell	Turweston
Lillingstone Lovell	Twyford
Luffield Abbey	Water Stratford
Maids Moreton	Westbury

1958

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of Council :
T. S. MITCHINSON, ESQ.

General Purposes Committee :

Chairman :
S. W. CHAPMAN, ESQ.

Members :

G. J. Beckett, Esq.	W. E. Good, Esq.
W. G. Beckett, Esq.	A. Hodges, Esq.
C. Bryant, Esq.	P. J. Hodges, Esq.
S. M. Cotton, Esq.	A. Powell, Esq.
Mrs. M. S. Crook.	Mrs. M. M. Spiers.
J. Davies, Esq.	D. A. Stewart, Esq.
Col. R. H. Doyne.	Rev. A. J. Waker.
W. Durrant, Esq.	A. J. Woods, Esq.
Hon. Mrs. M. E. Fortescue.	

T. S. Mitchinson, Esq. and S. W. Chapman, Esq.

ex-officio members

Public Health Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON,

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Rtd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Bletchley, Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area Medical Officer for North Bucks and Divisional School Medical Officer for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

F. SEYMOUR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. C. SHARPE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy :

K. E. RICHARDSON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Administrative Assistant :

C. H. BRAY.

Student Public Health Inspector :

T. J. AYRES.

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICES,
SCHOOL LANE,
BUCKINGHAM,
11th May, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of Buckingham Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The Birth Rate has risen from the previous year and is now two points higher than that for the rest of the Country.

The Death Rate has increased from the previous year but is still $2\frac{1}{2}$ points below that for the Country as a whole. Again Cancer and Heart Diseases caused the majority of deaths, accounting for 70 out of a total of 98.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has risen and is higher than it has been for the last three years. There were 4 deaths in this group, 3 of them under the age of 4 weeks.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis was carried on during the year and by December approximately 14,000 children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years had been vaccinated in the North Bucks Area. This very good result was only made possible by the great assistance given by General Practitioners, Nurses and, of course, the co-operation of parents, who, particularly in the more remote areas, managed

to get their children to the nearest vaccinating centre. Towards the end of the year the Minister extended the age groups to 25 and it is hoped that in the not too distant future vaccination will be available to every one.

I should like to record another year of happy co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Floyd, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, Mr. Sharpe, and their staffs.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON.

SECTION A.

Vital Statistics

	1957	1958
Area (in acres)	54,543	54,543
Population	10,380	9,620
Number of Inhabited Houses ..	2,751	2,707
Rateable Value	£80,947	£76,430
Rate per £	18/5½	20/-
Estimated Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£297/2/8	£312/14/1

Births :

Legitimate—Males ..	74	85
„ Females ..	68	66
Illegitimate—Males ..	5	7
„ Females ..	3	2
Birth rate per 1,000 population	17.9	18.4
Do. (Bucks)	16.7	17.3
Do. (England & Wales)	16.1	16.4
Deaths—Males	43	46
„ Females	31	52
Death rate per 1,000 population	7.1	9.2
Do. (Bucks)	9.7	9.8
Do. (England & Wales)	11.5	11.7
Maternal Mortality Rate ..	Nil	Nil
Do. (England & Wales)	0.47	0.43

Infantile Mortality :

Deaths of Infants under 1
year of age :

per 1,000 live births ..	20	25.0
Ditto for Bucks ..	21.6	16.4
Ditto for England & Wales	23.0	22.5
Still Births	1	4

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :	1957			1958		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza	0	1	1	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	9	6	15	8	8	16
Diabetes	1	0	1	0	4	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	8	5	13	6	7	13
Heart Disease	10	10	20	17	17	34
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	2	2	4	1	6	7
Bronchitis	2	1	3	2	3	5
Pneumonia	2	0	2	4	0	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	1	1
Digestive Diseases	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nephritis	1	0	1	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Child Birth,						
Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	2	0	2	1	0	1
Accidents	1	2	3	3	1	4
All other Causes	5	4	9	3	4	7
TOTALS	<u>43</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>98</u>

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for bacteriological investigation were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, as in previous years. Specimens for qualitative and quantitative analysis had to be sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

This service, administered by the County Health Department, is now radio controlled from Aylesbury, with a sub-station in Bletchley to cover the North Bucks Area. The service deals with all types of cases, general, accident and infectious disease.

3. NURSING FACILITIES.

The District Nurses in the Buckingham Rural Area carried out their duties in their usual conscientious manner.

4. CLINICS.

(a) *Child Welfare Centres.* There are five static Welfare Centres serving the District, located as follows :

Buckingham (twice monthly)	Twyford (once monthly)
Steeple Claydon (do.)	Winslow (twice monthly)
Thornborough (once monthly)	

The work of the Mobile Welfare Unit continued during the year and the following villages were visited monthly :—

Akeley.	Charndon.	Maids Moreton.
Adstock.	Dadford.	Padbury.
Beachampton.	Leckhampstead.	Preston Bissett.
Calvert.	Lillingstone Dayrell.	Tingewick.
Chackmore.		

The District Nurse and Health Visitor attended each Session, and a Medical Officer attended once monthly. Immunization against Diphtheria and Whooping cough was carried out at all centres. During the year attendances by children totalled 2,462.

Once again I should like to pay tribute to the good work done at these Clinics by the members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committees.

(b) *Chest Clinic*.—The Clinic holds weekly sessions and is administered jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Health Department. A chest physician attends each session. It is equipped with X-ray plant and is doing excellent work.

(c) *Orthopaedic Clinic*.—This clinic is organized by the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford. It holds two sessions a month at the Town Hall, Buckingham, and an Orthopaedic Surgeon attends alternate months.

5. HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals served the area during the year :—

Buckingham Hospital.

Aylesbury Group.

Oxford Group.

Northampton Group.

Creton Sanatorium.

Peppard Sanatorium.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service, which for some time had been administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service, is now administered direct with two whole time Domestic Help Organisers covering the North Bucks Area.

During the year, 67 cases were assisted in the Buckingham area.

7. INEDUCABLE CHILDREN.

The County Medical Officer of Health has sent the following report :—

“ In September, 1958, premises were secured at Thornborough Church Hall and the Training Centre then opened daily from 9.30 to 3.30. Milk and mid-day meals were taken at the Centre and children were conveyed from the surrounding area.

At the end of the year there were twelve on the roll and the average attendance for the year ended 31st March, 1959 was 10.3.”

ANNUAL REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Bucks Water Board, of which your Council is a constituent authority, continues to supply every parish with water.

The Foxcote Treatment Works have been in operation throughout the year in conjunction with the storage reservoir and the average daily quantity of water supplied from these works during 1958 was 1,370,000 gallons, an increase of 45,000 gallons per day over the figure for 1957.

The summer of 1958, was, as in 1957, generally wet and consequently the flow in the River Ouse was well maintained and no difficulty was experienced in maintaining the water level in the Foxcote Reservoir.

During the year, a start was made on the provision of a special carbon treatment plant at Foxcote and it is hoped that this plant will assist in alleviating certain taste problems which have been experienced.

During the year the Board laid new mains as follows :

Twyford	...	...	50 yards
Turweston	...	...	34 yards
Marsh Gibbon	...	...	940 yards
Total			1024 yards

Main Supply.

- (a) Quantity—Satisfactory.
- (b) Quality—Satisfactory.
- (c) Samples taken from the supply (which fell into Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading) 7
- (d) Estimated number of premises on supply ... 2512
- (e) Estimated number of population served ... 9268

Other Sources.

- (a) Samples taken 13
 (b) Samples found upon analysis to be unfit ... 8
 (in these cases informal action was taken with the owners of the property concerned to provide a wholesome supply).

Summary of Results of Water Samples taken from other than Main Supply for Bacteriological Examination during the past Ten Years.

Year	No. of Samples taken and examined	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1949	6	4	2
1950	6	3	3
1951	12	2	10
1952	4	2	2
1953	7	3	4
1954	12	4	8
1955	12	1	11
1956	4	3	1
1957	6	2	4
1958	13	5	8
Totals	82	29	53
		64.63% unsatisfactory.	

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The streams and water courses in several villages are still polluted in varying degrees by drainage effluent and the problem gets more acute each year. The only method to obviate much of the pollution is by the installation of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes. At the present rate of progress towards this end, it will be many years hence before the District is completely rid of these potential harbours of disease. During dry weather, the polluted ditches and streams are most objectionable, to say the least, and every effort is made with the limited labour force available,

to keep the ditches cleaned out in order to minimise silting up.

Many of the streams and water courses are also becoming choked with debris and are obstructed in varying degrees with overhanging bushes, undergrowth, etc., and in consequence the free flow of water is greatly impeded. With the establishment of an Internal Drainage Board, it is hoped that the work of cleaning out these streams and water courses will be carried out in the not too far distant future.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Good progress was made on the Adstock and Padbury Scheme and by the end of the year approximately 90% of the total of the estimated cost of the scheme had been completed. The disposal works at Padbury and the majority of the sewers in both villages had been constructed and by the end of the year houses were being linked up to the new system and the treatment works put into operation. It is anticipated that the completion date will be March 1959.

During the year, the Ministry of Local Government and Planning advised the Council that tenders could be invited for the Akeley Scheme. The Council accordingly advertised and fourteen tenders were received. The one submitted by Messrs. G. R. Yeomans Ltd., Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry, being accepted by the Council, in the sum of £27,540.

The scheme comprises the following :—

2,217 yards (approximate) stoneware sewers.

140 yards (approximate) 6" Cast Iron pumping main.

Lifting Station.

2 sedimentation tanks.

1 percolating filter.

1 humus tank.

It is anticipated that work will commence early in the Spring.

Following representations made to the Council by the Thames Conservancy regarding the poor quality

of the effluent at the Marsh Gibbon Works, a scheme was prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the improvement of the final effluent.

A negotiated price of £775 submitted by Messrs. Bridgwater Bros. of Epsom, to execute the necessary works by the installation of pumping equipment and the discharge of the effluent over grassland was accepted.

Ministry approval was given to the construction of small disposal plants at Hillesden Church End and Water Stratford and by the end of the year the Hillesden Plant was in operation and the one at Water Stratford nearing completion.

The following villages are now provided with modern sewage disposal works :—

Chackmore.	Completed in 1939.
Steeple Claydon.	Completed in 1939.
Tingewick.	Completed during the War by the War Department and taken over by the Council in 1949. Extended in 1956.
Thornborough.	Completed in 1953.
Marsh Gibbon.	Completed in 1956.
Adstock & Padbury.	Completion early 1959.
Hillesden Church End.	Completion 1959.
Water Stratford.	Completion early 1959.

The above works continued to function well throughout the year and maintenance work at the sewers and disposal works sites was again carried out in a satisfactory manner.

With the completion of new schemes the maintenance work is rapidly increasing and during the latter part of the year an additional workman was engaged on this work.

The obsolete and grossly overloaded works at Westbury continued to function during the year but the final effluent is most unsatisfactory and the works will have to be abandoned and a new works provided in the not too far distant future.

4. WATER CLOSETS.

Towards the latter part of the year the Council decided to proceed with a conversion scheme involving fifteen Council Houses at present served by bucket lavatories. Schemes were prepared and tenders invited for the construction of sewage disposal plants, together with incidental drainage works. Tenders subsequently approved are as follows :—

Grendon Road, Edgcott (4 houses)—

Messrs. Betts & Faulkner, Stony Stratford—£821 2. 11.

School Hill, Charndon (8 houses)—

Messrs. Betts & Faulkner, Stony Stratford—£1,346 11. 4.

The Square, Preston Bissett (3 houses)—

Messrs. Wootton Bros., Sulgrave—£248 18. 10.

42 W.C's. have been installed during the year by the owners of private properties.

Notices were served under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on the owners of five cottages, Clements Lane, Marsh Gibbon.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Household refuse throughout the District was again collected once every three weeks and a satisfactory service maintained. The collection is a kerbside one and householders are required to place their bins on the roadside verges to await collection.

The Council again considered the question of increasing the frequency of the collection, for the existing three weekly collection presents various difficulties, especially to householders trying to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

The proposed new scheme, which was estimated to cost an additional £2,650 per annum, envisaged the following parishes receiving a weekly collection :—

Adstock, Maids Moreton, Padbury, Steeple Claydon, Tingewick, Thornborough, Marsh Gibbon, Twyford, Westbury, Turweston, Charndon, Akeley and Stowe.

The remaining outlying parishes being collected fortnightly.

The Council subsequently decided to defer further consideration for a period of twelve months.

Consideration was further given to all premises in the area being provided with proper sanitary dustbins and it is hoped that the Council will, early in 1959, agree to the scheme whereby the Council themselves will provide and supply containers, in accordance with legislation in the Public Health Act.

The schedule of collection, which has now been in operation since May, 1956, is as follows :—

SCHEDULE

Week 1

Tuesday— Padbury, Adstock.

Wednesday—Thornborough, Thornton, Beachampton.

Thursday— Maids Moreton, Foxcote, Leckhampstead.

Friday— Lillingstone Lovell, Lillinstone Dayrell, Addington, Middle Claydon.

Week 2

Tuesday— Steeple Claydon.

Wednesday—Edgcott, Marsh Gibbon.

Thursday— Poundon, Twyford, Charndon.

Friday— Hillesden, Preston Bissett, Chetwode, Barton Hartshorne.

Week 3

Tuesday— Tingewick.

Wednesday—Radclive-cum-Chackmore, Shalstone, Biddlesden, Water Stratford.

Thursday— Turweston, Westbury.

Friday— Akeley, Stowe.

The 18 cubic yard Dennis Paxit vehicle has continued to give very satisfactory service and has proved most economical in use.

The old Karrier vehicle was used for occasional work on refuse collection, tip maintenance and for general sewerage and estate maintenance work. This vehicle has given satisfactory service for over ten years and

the time is fast approaching when consideration will have to be given to the acquisition of a replacement lorry.

All refuse was deposited in the disused clay pit at Calvert, which is owned by the London Brick Company, Limited. This tip has been in use since September 1957 and is well isolated from human habitation. The acquisition by the Council of a Fordson 'Major' Diesel Tractor, with bulldozer blade, has helped considerably in the work of tip maintenance and the tip has been kept in a presentable condition. Quantities of covering material have been imported during the year and levelled over the tip surface.

Regular inspections and treatment for rodents and also frequent spraying with insecticides during the summer months to prevent fly nuisance, were again carried out.

The work of cleansing septic tanks and cesspools continues to be carried out by contract at four monthly intervals and has been executed in a satisfactory manner.

The total income from the sale of waste paper and scrap iron during the year amounted to £74 18s. 10d.

6. SCHOOLS.

There are still five out of the total of sixteen village schools in the district without modern sanitation and it is hoped that the schools in the following parishes will be connected to the water carriage system in 1959:

Adstock, Padbury, Hillesden and Marsh Gibbon.

This will leave Akeley, which cannot be dealt with until such time as the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the village is completed.

7. SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public swimming baths in the Rural District but rural residents in the summertime, as well

as school children, used the open air one in the Borough of Buckingham.

8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No infestation was reported during the year.

9. RODENT CONTROL.

Work during the year by the Rodent Operative has again been satisfactory and was carried out without the necessity of invoking statutory action.

Consideration was given to the treatment of farms and agricultural land by contract in view of the rat destruction service by the Ministry of Agriculture being terminated at the end of March 1959. It was deemed advisable for the Council to take on contracts with local farmers for apart from the financial aspect, it was much better to treat premises at frequent intervals than to carry out rat destruction when rats were in evidence and there had been a build up in the number of the rat population.

In view of the discontinuation of direct grants for rodent work, it was decided to revise the charges for rat destruction on business premises.

Work of Inspection and Control.

(a) Number of Complaints received	...	...	58
(b) Number of Properties inspected and visits carried out	...	...	2556
(c) Number of properties found infested with rats	...	...	219
(d) Number of Properties found infested with mice	...	...	26

10. GENERAL SURVEY OF WORK.

Flooding at Thornborough.—In July severe flooding took place in the village of Thornborough due to torrential rain, between 30 and 40 houses were flooded to various depths, from a few inches to four feet. The sewerage manholes in the Main Street were forced

up by the pressure of the water and the pumping station at the Lower End of the village was a small island in the middle of the river. Fortunately the flood water did not get to the electrically operated pumps and apart from a vast quantity of mud, gravel and stones, etc., gaining access to the sewers, which subsequently had to be cleaned out, no major damage occurred to the sewerage system.

Early the following morning, Council employees were sent into the village to help the householders, especially the older people, to clean out and mop up in the houses.

The Royal Air Force loaned a portable hot air blower and this was used on drying out some of the worst flooded houses.

I understand from local knowledge that a similar flood occurred some twenty or more years ago, but there appears little can be done to prevent flooding, should torrential rain fall again in that area.

Improvement of Existing Council Houses.

A substantial number of the houses owned by the Council are without hot water facilities and others without bathrooms and in my view early consideration should be given to providing these amenities. The houses which lack these facilities are all pre-war houses and it may be necessary, in certain cases, to build on in order to provide a bathroom. The installation of hot water in all the houses will be a relatively simple matter, but owing to the cost involved, it may be necessary to spread this improvement work over a number of years.

The Council's decision to carry out conversion work to fifteen of their houses leaves only six houses at Akeley which will be without flush lavatories and, as the main sewerage scheme for Akeley is due for starting in the Spring of 1959, it is fair to assume that by early 1960 all Council Houses will have W.C.'s provided.

Privy Conversion.

There are still a number of houses in the villages which are served by modern disposal works that are without flush lavatory facilities. The Council will be aware that under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, grants of 50% can be given towards the cost of the work. The first grants of this nature were given during the year towards the cost of conversion of properties in Marsh Gibbon and I sincerely hope that the Council will give favourable consideration to the extension of this scheme with a view to all properties where main sewerage is available, being provided with at least one W.C.

Maintenance Work.

There still appears to be a high turnover rate with regard to persons engaged in general maintenance on sewage disposal, drainage, ditch cleaning, etc. The nature of the work is probably one of the chief factors which bring about these labour difficulties, and in my view, mechanisation will help in solving some of the difficulties. The labour force has a preponderance of the older type of men, and even when jobs are advertised, difficulty is experienced in engaging the right type of person.

In these days of high labour costs it is of paramount importance to increase the efficiency of the existing force, and with this in mind, I am of the opinion that the Council should seriously consider carrying out the whole of the maintenance on sewage disposal works and at pumping stations by the use of a mobile gang. The only difficulties in the setting up of such a gang in a scattered rural area such as yours, is the question of weekend work at pumping stations, but, no doubt, this can be overcome. Such a scheme would involve the acquisition of a new van for this purpose, but would lead to increased efficiency and ensure that each works gets the required attention. The mobility of such a gang would enable extra work being under-

taken without having to engage additional employees. The coming year, 1959, will add further responsibilities to the Department's work by the completion of the Adstock and Padbury Scheme, the disposal plants at Water Stratford, School Hill, Charndon and Grendon Road, Edgcott, followed by a new works at Akeley in early 1960. In the interests of efficiency and economy it would therefore be wise to consider setting up a mobile gang.

The emptying of sludge beds at the various disposal works has, up to the present, been carried out by wheel barrow and shovel and during wet seasons, and especially in the winter time, the sludge does not dry out sufficiently for it to be handled in this manner.

One of the sludge beds at Tingewick has been reconstructed with a view to this work being carried out by tractor and, if it proves successful, I would strongly recommend the reconstruction of all other beds.

Slaughterhouses.

New regulations regarding hygiene and the prevention of cruelty to animals came into operation on the 1st January 1959. The Regulations are designed to secure the observance of sanitary and clean conditions in connection with the construction and operation of slaughterhouses and the handling of meat therein, and it will be noted that for the slaughter of adult cattle, the provision and use of stunning pens is made compulsory. This latter requirement, however, will not come into force for existing slaughterhouses until a date to be appointed.

The majority of existing licensed slaughterhouses in the Area are somewhat restricted in size and the installation of a stunning pen will prove formidable. It would appear, therefore, that in the near future these slaughterhouses may have to be restricted to the slaughtering of animals other than cattle.

A brief summary of other inspections and visits made during 1958 is appended below :—

Total Number of visits to Premises	...	...	2734
Complaints received	...	...	38
Informal Notices served	...	...	59
Statutory Notices served	...	...	7

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948.

The table below shews the position during 1958, as far as work places and factories are concerned and the inspections made for purposes as to health and sanitation.

With the coming into force of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, all slaughterhouses and knacker's yards including their lairages were brought within the scope of the Factories Acts.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupier prosecuted</i>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	6	12	2	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	32	4	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	23	44	6	—

Only one outworker was notified in accordance with Section 110 of Part VIII of the 1937 Act and after

inspection this person was found to be engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

During the year, a certificate for the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire was issued respecting the following factory :—

Antiference Ltd., Westbury.

TENTS, VANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

All the sites were inspected during the year and found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition :—

Number licensed	4
Number of inspections	19
Nuisances found to exist	1

DRAINAGE

Steady progress has been made towards modernization of drainage for existing house property. Owners of property where main sewerage has been provided have, in the past, come forward very readily to connect their properties to the sewer and the Council's policy in providing a free lateral drain acts as an incentive to ensure that all road re-instatement is carried out at the same time.

Number of New drains examined	66
Number of visits for that purpose	145
Number of W.C.'s installed	77
Number of new soil and ventilating pipes installed... ..	58

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928 AND 1936.

The Council, during the year, adopted the Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions, for the storage of petroleum spirit issued by the Home Office which, amongst other things, suggested that Authorities should require underground tanks to be retested after they have been installed for twenty years and at regular intervals thereafter.

During the licensing year 1958, seventeen such tanks were subjected to retest and of these, three were found to be defective and have either been replaced or abandoned and rendered safe by the licensee.

Number of Petroleum Licences, December 1958 :—

500 gallons or less	...	...	...	...	29
Over 500 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	8
Over 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	4
					—
Total licences issued	...	...	...	...	41
					—
Number of inspections or tests carried out	...	...	...	...	56

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enquiries in cases of infectious disease	...	...	25
Number of visits re disinfection	...	...	Nil

HOUSING AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

Number of Plans deposited for new houses	...	...	7
Number of Plans deposited for other works	...	...	89
Visits in connection with Building Byelaws	...	...	283

OTHER CLASSIFIED VISITS.

Housing visits under the Housing Acts	...	...	549
Housing visits under the Public Health Acts	...	...	29
Visits re water supply	...	...	33
Visits re drainage and sewerage	...	...	247
Visits re refuse collection	...	...	12
Visits re refuse disposal	...	...	52
Visits in connection with sewage disposal	...	...	313
Schools	...	...	24
General nuisances	...	...	11
Overcrowding	...	...	1
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	Nil
Foul ditches and ponds	...	...	Nil
Visits to Shops and Licensed Premises	...	...	150
Visits to Canteens	...	...	27
Unclassified	...	...	43
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	13
Knackers Yards	...	...	19

SECTION D.

Housing

The total number of Council Houses erected post war is now 404. The rate of progress during the year decreased over that of the previous year. The figures for the two years being 14 and 26 respectively. By the end of the year 4 houses were under construction as compared with 12 the previous year.

Erection of Post War Council Houses up to December 1958

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Total Completed</i>	<i>Under Construction</i>
Adstock	16	—	16	—
Akeley	16	—	16	—
Beachampton	10	—	10	—
Biddlesden	4	—	4	—
Charndon	6	—	6	—
Chetwode	4	—	4	—
Edgcott	8	—	8	—
Hillesden	6	—	6	4
Lillingstone Lovell	4	—	4	—
Maids Moreton	15	—	15	—
Marsh Gibbon	28	2	30	—
Middle Claydon	4	—	4	—
Padbury	30	—	30	—
Poundon	3	—	3	—
Preston Bissett	12	—	12	—
Radcliffe-cum-Chackmore	4	—	4	—
Steeple Claydon... ..	52	39	91	—
Stowe	2	—	2	—
Thornborough	22	—	22	—
Thornton	4	—	4	—
Tingewick	45	13	58	—
Turweston	6	—	6	—
Twyford	28	—	28	—
Water Stratford	—	4	4	—
Westbury	17	—	17	—
Total	346	58	404	4

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1958	14
Total number of houses built and owned by the Authority	703
Pre-War—299. Post-War—404.	

Erection of Post War Houses by Private Enterprise up to December 1958

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Total Completed</i>	<i>Under Construction</i>	<i>By Other Authorities</i>
Akeley	1	3	4	—	1
Adstock	3	1	4	—	
Barton Hartshorne ...	—	1	1	—	
Beachampton	4	—	4	—	
Biddlesden	5	—	6	—	
Charndon	3	10	13	—	
Chetwode	—	1	1	—	
Edgcott	1	—	1	—	
Hillesden	2	—	2	—	
Leckhampstead	1	—	1	—	
Lillingstone Lovell ...	—	1	1	—	
Maids Moreton	5	2	7	1	
Marsh Gibbon	5	5	10	1	
Padbury	6	2	8	—	
Preston Bissett	—	—	—	1	
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	3	—	3	—	1
Steeple Claydon	3	4	7	1	
Stowe	20	1	21	—	
Thornborough	3	4	7	—	
Thornton	—	1	1	—	
Tingewick	1	3	4	—	
Turweston	2	1	3	—	
Twyford	2	1	3	—	
Water Stratford	1	1	2	—	
Westbury	6	3	9	—	
Total	77	46	123	4	2

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1958	14
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The Council gave consideration to the adoption of a 12th Building Programme as follows :—

	<i>For Slum Clearance</i>	<i>For Old People</i>	<i>General Needs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Preston Bissett	7	—	—	7
Steeple Claydon	—	6	—	6
Twyford ...	—	4	—	4
Thornborough	1	—	—	1
Leckhampstead	—	—	4	4
	8	10	4	22

Good progress has been maintained regarding inspection of properties listed for action in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

A summary of the action taken with regard to Slum Clearance is shewn in the following table :—

SLUM CLEARANCE — Five Year Programme

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN FROM OCTOBER 1955 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1958

Parish	Number of Unfit Houses in Slum Clearance Programme	Action Taken							Owned by Local Authority resolution to demolish	Informal Action	Action to be Taken — Remaining
		Clearance Area Made (Number of Premises)	Demolition Order Made	Closing Order Made	Undertaking not to re-let for human habitation	Undertaking to make fit for human habitation	Demolished	Deleted from Programme	Represented under consideration		
Adstock ...	8		8				6				Nil
Barton Hartshorne	1		1				1				Nil
Charndon ...	6										6
Hillesden ...	4		4								Nil
Maids Moreton	11		3								8
Marsh Gibbon	6		6			3					2*
Padbury ...	8				2		6				Nil
Preston Bissett	14			1	6	1	2	1		2	Nil
Steeple Claydon	1				1						Nil
Thornborough	9		3				2	3			2
Tingewick	8		2	3		1					2
Turweston	3									1	2
Twyford ...	12	7	5				12				Nil
Water Stratford	5		2			2					Nil
TOTALS ...	96	7	34	5	10	7	30	4	2	3	22

NOTE.—*Action to be deferred during present tenant's lifetime.

**Houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the
Minister Pre-War but not yet demolished.**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. still occupied</i>	<i>No. of persons in occupation</i>
Akeley ...	6	2	3
Beachampton	3	—	—
Stowe ...	7	7	17
Tingewick ...	2	—	—

The licences issued under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 to occupy the above premises expired on the 30th August, 1957 and the owners and occupiers were subsequently notified to vacate the premises by 31st December, 1958.

The Council decided to assist in the re-housing as far as possible. Action was taken to secure the demolition of those premises now vacant.

INSPECTION AND ACTION DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Houses found to be in a state unfit for habitation	17
Number of Houses in respect of which an under-taking was signed to render the premises fit for habitation	4
Number of houses in respect of which an under-taking was signed that the premises owned would not be re-let for habitation	6
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Demolition order was made	2
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Closing Order was made	2
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which action was deferred	1
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Clearance Order was made	Nil
Number of houses found to be unfit (purchased by Local Authority) and resolution made by Authority to demolish	2

OVERCROWDING.

One case of overcrowding was investigated during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Twelve applications for grants were made, all of which received approval and the maximum grant of fifty per cent. was recommended in each case.

The total grant aid approved during the year amounted to £4,485 0s. 0d., an average of approximately £345 0s. 0d. per house.

Applications made for Grant during 1958

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Approved by Council</i>
Adstock	3
Charndon	1
Chetwode	1
Hillesden	2
Marsh Gibbon	3
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	1
Turweston	2
Total Number of Houses to be improved ...	13

Number of properties in respect of which grants were approved by the Council during 1958	...	13
Amount of grant aid approved by the Council during 1958	... ..	£4,485 0. 0.
Total number of properties in respect of which grants were approved by the Council to 31st December, 1958	... ..	104
Total amount of grant aid approved by the Council, to 31st December, 1958	...	£30,194 18. 3.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK.

The sampling of milk which is undertaken by the Food and Drugs Authority, brought to light the existence of brucella abortus on four farms but it appears that the eradication of the bacillus from an animal infected is a difficult matter, for the bacillus appears to be affecting the milk at infrequent intervals. The existence of Brucella Abortus on one particular farm has been reported no less than four times over a period of a few years. Probably the answer to this problem is for all milk to be heat treated in order to prevent danger to consumers. A case of undulant fever in a human being was reported during the year and the milk supply subsequently sampled but this, on examination, proved to be negative as far as Brucella Abortus was concerned.

The milk from the infected farms was diverted for pasteurisation and the veterinary service called in for further investigations.

It is pleasing to note that no report was received regarding the existence of tuberculosis in dairy herds.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

Number of Dairies registered	...	...	...	1
Number of Distributors on Register	...	...	...	9
Inspections	...	...	...	15

The following supplementary licences were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 authorising the use of the Special Designation :—

" Tuberculin Tested "	...	...	...	...	10
" Pasteurised "	...	...	...	...	7

ICE CREAM.

Total number of retailers on register	32
New applications received and Premises registered	1
Inspections	8

Samples of ice cream have been taken from premises serving ice cream to the public. These samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue reduction test and were graded as follows :—

Provisional Grade I	6
Do. II	Nil
Do. III	Nil
Do. IV	Nil

This test affords a simple means for the grading of the bacteriological cleanliness of ice cream.

MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES

I am pleased again to report that during the year 100% meat inspection was carried out. Of the 5 premises licensed as private slaughterhouses, only 3 have been in regular use during the year, but even so, the inspection of meat has taken up much time and travelling, quite often special journeys having to be made for this purpose.

The quality of the home killed meat was very good indeed.

CYSTICERCOSIS BOVIS.

It will be noted that for the first time since the re-opening of private slaughterhouses three cases of localised Cysticercosis Bovis have been found in animals slaughtered in the licensed slaughterhouses in the District. This parasitic disease, which was practically unknown in this Country prior to 1939, is becoming much more prevalent. The adult stage of the parasite is the tapeworm (taenia saginata) found in the intestines of human beings and the cystic stage found

in various muscular tissues of bovine animals. Normally prime animals, 18 months—2½ years are affected and this was so with the three cases found. The carcase and offal in each case were subjected to refrigeration as prescribed by the Ministry in Memo 3 Meat, and affected parts condemned.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in
whole or part :

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed ...	129	2	3	1049	232	—
Number inspected	129	2	3	1049	232	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</i>						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	60	—	—	84	37	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	46.51	—	—	8.10	15.95	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.64	—	—	—	1.29	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and tot- ally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Parts or Organs condemned are classified as follows :

	<i>Beef</i>	<i>Pork</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Total</i>
Whole Carcase	—	—	I	I
Plucks	—	3	2	5
Livers	58	15	76	149
Heads and Tongues ...	7	I	I	9
Hearts	2	9	3	14
Lungs	6	14	9	29
Part carcase	I	I	I	3
Miscellaneous	3	6	2	11

Approximate total weight 12 cwt. 0 qrs. 17 lb.

Visits to slaughterhouses	206
Visits to Butchers' shops	209
Number of licensed slaughtermen	16

FOOD PREMISES.

Whilst there was some improvement in the standard of hygiene of food handlers, much educational work, however, still requires to be done in this field. It was necessary to issue warnings to two persons regarding smoking whilst handling food.

The majority of premises have been brought up to the required standard as laid down by the Food Hygiene Regulations and whilst at the onset there was a certain amount of opposition by traders to make their premises comply with the Regulations, nevertheless, I am of the opinion that the majority of them now realise the advantages gained in so doing.

The premises coming within the purview of the Regulations are summarised as follows :—

School Canteens	16
Private School Kitchens	5
Factory Canteens	3
Hospital Kitchens	3
Licensed Clubs	4
Licensed Public Houses	39
Mobile Fish and Chip Vans	2
Shops—General Stores	40
Butchers	7
Bakers	2
Total	121

Food Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 are classified as follows :—

Ice Cream (registered for the storage and sale)	32
Mobile Vans (for frying of fish and chips) ...	2
Manufacture of Sausages	7

KNACKER'S YARDS

There is one licensed knacker's yard in the district and regular inspections of the premises have been undertaken.

OTHER FOODS.

Other foods condemned during the year include :—

Cooked Ham	8 lb.
Beef Sausages	4 lb.
Pork Sausages	5 lb.

all of which were found to be unfit for human consumption by reason of decomposition.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

All butcher's meat condemned is disposed of either by way of the knacker's merchant or by means of burial.

Tinned food is disposed of by burial.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register	2
Number of visits	8
Contravention of Regulations	4

JOHN C. SHARPE,

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and Other Diseases

GENERAL.

No major outbreaks of infectious disease occurred during the year. Four cases of Paratyphoid were notified, all from the one family. The disease had spread from a carrier in the family and was confined to the four cases.

NOTIFICATIONS

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Measles	25	13	38
Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	4
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Dysentery	2	—	2
Erysipelas	—	1	1
Paratyphoid	1	3	4
Total	31	20	51

CANCER.

There were 16 deaths from this disease during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases were notified during the year. There were no deaths.

DANIEL H. WALDRON,
Medical Officer of Health.